



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Emergency Management

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE**  
**7401 Timberlake Road**  
**Lynchburg, VA 24502**  
**FEMA-1458-DR-VA**  
**Commonwealth Situation Report #30**  
**Friday, May 9, 2003**

### 1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

**12 Noon Wednesday, May 7, 2003, through 12 Noon Friday, May 9, 2003** (*New information in bold italics.*)

### 2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544. Briefing meetings in DFO are held **Tuesdays and Thursdays** as follows: Commonwealth (COV) 8:30 a.m.; joint Federal/COV 9 a.m. The Department of Homeland Security threat level has been reduced to elevated (yellow).

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb.15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

The following counties and cities were added to the Presidential declaration, FEMA-1458-DR-VA effective April 28, 2003:

Prince William, Shenandoah, and Warren, and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, for Public Assistance, Category B. only. (Emergency protective measures for a period of 48 hours)

Appomattox, Buchanan, Craig, Dickerson, Floyd, Halifax, Henry, Lee, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Scott, Wise, and Wythe Counties and the independent cities of Danville, Norton, Roanoke, and Salem for Public Assistance, all categories.

Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke Counties for Individual Assistance.

### 3. WEATHER

***Today: Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, warm and humid with highs 80-85, SW winds 5-15 mph, chance of rain 50 percent. Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms until midnight, otherwise partly cloudy, lows near 60, west winds 10-15 mph, chance of rain 30 percent. Saturday: Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, warm and humid with highs 80-85, west winds 10-15 mph, chance of rain 40 percent.***

### 4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:

- A. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- B. Manage expectations of disaster victims.
- C. Increase the percentage of SBA applications returned.
- D. ***Continue*** planning DFO closing.

**5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:****A. Individual Assistance (IA):**STATE CONTACT: *Shane Townsend, 434-832-8513**(As of COB 5-8)*

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

The deadline for applying for unemployment assistance for the original declared jurisdictions is May 15. Applications for DUA for the add-on jurisdictions: Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties will be accepted through May 30, 2003.

*There have been 3 applicants. All have been awarded assistance for a total of \$3,300.*

*Only those individuals not meeting the requirements for normal unemployment benefits qualify for the Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.*

Tele-registrations:

*(As of COB 5-8)*

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	<b>463</b>	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	<b>147</b>	Arlington Co.	1
Lee Co.	15	Augusta Co.	2
Montgomery Co.	<b>48</b>	Bedford Co.	3
Pulaski Co.	<b>10</b>	Bland	1
Roanoke Co.	*5	Botetourt Co.	1
Russell Co.	34	Campbell Co.	1
Tazewell Co.	<b>42</b>	Fairfax	1
Wise Co.	<b>181</b>	Franklin Co.	2
Norton City	24	Giles Co.	1
Roanoke City	* <b>101</b>	Halifax Co.	4
Salem City	* <b>118</b>	Henry Co.	2
		Loudoun Co.	1
		Pittsylvania Co.	1
		Prince William Co.	1
		Scott Co.	1
		Spotsylvania Co.	2
		Washington Co.	2
		Wythe	1
Total	<b>1,188</b>	Total	29

\*The use of zip codes in the NEMIS does not always accurately differentiate actual jurisdiction totals.

Inspection Services:  
(As of **COB 5-8**)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	<b>1,066</b>
Inspections Returned to FEMA	<b>1,052</b>
Inspections Outstanding	<b>13</b>
Inspectors in the Field	<b>2</b>
Turnaround Time	<b>1.02</b>

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:  
(As of **COB 5-8**)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for "housing repairs".

Eligibility Rate	<b>72%</b>
Amount Approved	<b>\$1,030,369.00</b>
Amount Disbursed	<b>\$1,028,031.00</b>
Referrals	<b>1,019</b>
Approved	<b>725</b>
Ineligible	<b>245</b>
Withdrawn	<b>38</b>
Pending HA Categories	<b>11</b>

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance has begun. Payments began Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

Eligibility Rate	<b>43%</b>
Amount Approved	<b>\$584,891.00</b>
Amount Disbursed	<b>\$276,315.00</b>
Referrals	<b>441</b>
Approved	<b>168</b>
Ineligible	<b>214</b>
Withdrawn	<b>12</b>
Pending ONA Categories	<b>47</b>

Due to a lack of state funding authorization, future disbursements under this program are currently uncertain.

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans  
(As of **COB 5-8**)

Home Applications Issued	<b>495</b>
Business Applications Issued	<b>59</b>
Total Applications Issued	<b>554</b>
Total Applications Approved	<b>45</b>
Total Applications Pending	<b>21</b>
Total Amount Approved	<b>\$396,600.00</b>

The SBA Workshops *ceased operations at* COB on Thursday, May 8, 2003.

**B. Public Assistance (PA):**

**STATE CONTACT:** Bob Andersen, 434-832-8506

- Applicants Briefings for Snow Declaration Add-Ons in Northern Virginia will be conducted May 12, 2003 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the VDOT Residency Office in Culpeper, VA.

<i>Requests for Public Assistance</i>	<b>45</b>
<i>Project Worksheets Obligated</i>	<b>9</b>
<i>PW Funds Approved</i>	<b>\$246,463.65</b>
<i>PW Funds Paid</i>	<b>\$0</b>

- No funds have been paid since there is no state appropriation currently authorized.

**C. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

**STATE CONTACT:** Richard Dameron, **804-897-6500, Ext. 6525**

- A Community Compliance Visit *was conducted in* Montgomery County on May 8, 2003. This visit completed the NFIP compliance section of the Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan. In addition to discussing the county's floodplain management issues, county officials from Community Development, GIS and the Sheriff's office met as a follow-up to the May 5 HMGP briefing to discuss possible HMGP projects. The county is interested in reverse 911, signage a stream and river crossings where vehicular accidents are frequent during flood events (and one fatality occurred in February, 2003), planning and hazard mapping and eventual relocations and buy-outs. County officials were referred to experts at VDEM for additional assistance.
- An applicants briefing for HMGP was held for Roanoke Valley communities on May 5, 2003. A second briefing will be conducted May 14 for Southwest Virginia Communities in Abingdon *at the DEQ office.*
- David Corzilius helped the FEMA Environmental Officer conduct the Environmental/Historic Resources Scoping meeting on May 8, 2003 in Abingdon. The meeting was attended by state, federal and non-profit organizations. Some of the participants were very familiar with the process since they were actively involved in DR-VA 1406 and 1411 during 2002. In addition, some new staff members were also present. Data collected at the meeting will be used by the FEMA Environmental Officer to revise the "Green Book." Agency representatives who were unable to attend will be briefed on the meeting.*

**D. Public Affairs (PAO):****STATE CONTACT:** Dawn Eischen, 804-897-6510

- Managing state Public Affairs operations from VDEM HQ in Richmond.

**E. Legislative Liaison:****STATE CONTACT:** Arthur Warren, 804-897-6500 Ext 6587

- *No new actions at this time.*

**F. Information and Planning****STATE CONTACT:** Warren Theis, 434-832-8538, 8456

- Lessons Learned session *was* held on May 9, 2003. *Memo for record is being prepared to describe directed actions.*
- State sitreps to be prepared on May 15, 22 and 29, 2003.

**G. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:****STATE CONTACT:** Harry Colestock, 434-832-8560

- Current State staffing level at the DFO for today is **17** including field staffing.

(s) Harry E. Colestock III for

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Michael M. Cline, SCO

WAT 05/09/03, 1425